HONORABLE BAEK DONG SOO

by LEE Jae-Heon

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Honorable Baek Dong Soo v8 c54

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Chapter 54. The King's Power and The Subjects' Power

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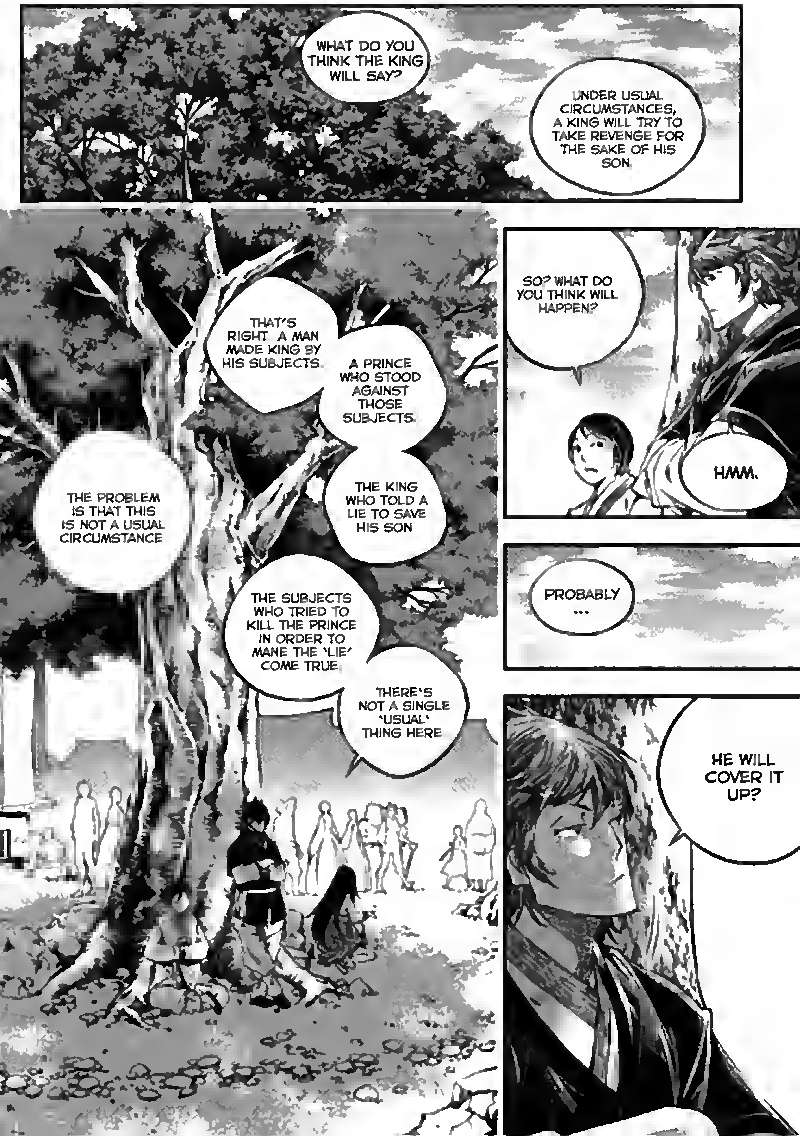
Hong Gook Young
Baek Dong Soo
HONG GOOK YOUNG.
HONG GOOK YOUNG.
REMEMBER THESE TWO.
WAS THIS THE REASON?
.....
THEY SAID THAT THEY HAVE A PRIVATE MESSAGE FOR YOU, REGARDING MY FATHER.
ON THE CONDITION THAT I AM ALLOWED TO LISTEN, I HAVE ARRANGED THIS.
!

Y...YOUR MAJESTY'S ORDER HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT.
The King's order?
THE CROWN PRINCE IS ALIVE.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
EXPLAIN IT SO THAT I MAY UNDERSTAND.
HIS MAJESTY HAD GIVEN AN ORDER TO SAVE THE CROWN PRINCE.
THE EXECUTION INSIDE THE CHEST WAS A MEANS TO ARRANGE FOR THE ESCAPE.

M...MY FATHER IS BURIED IN MOUNT BAEBONG ..
IT IS WOONGUM, WHO HAD REPLACED THE CROWN PRINCE IN THE CHEST, BURIED THERE
HE TOLD ME TO GUARD YOU, MY PRINCE.
YES. YOU'VE DONE WELL.
I WILL REMEMBER YOUR NAMES.
IS THAT ALL?
!
LET ME ASK YOUR MAJESTY AT THE RISK OF BEING RUDE.

WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH THE CROWN PRINCE NOW?
.....
WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH THOSE WHO ATTACKED HIM?
!!


WHAT DO YOU THINK THE KING WILL SAY?
UNDER USUAL CIRCUMSTANCES, A KING WILL TRY TO TAKE REVENGE FOR THE SAKE OF HIS SON.
SO? WHAT DO YOU THINK WILL HAPPEN?
HMM.
PROBABLY ...
HE WILL COVER IT UP?
THAT'S RIGHT. A MAN MADE KING BY HIS SUBJECTS.
A PRINCE WHO STOOD AGAINST THOSE SUBJECTS.
THE KING WHO TOLD A LIE TO SAVE HIS SON
THE PROBLEM IS THAT THIS IS NOT A USUAL CIRCUMSTANCE
THE SUBJECTS WHO TRIED TO KILL THE PRINCE IN ORDER TO MAKE THE 'LIE' COME TRUE.
THERE'S NOT A SINGLE 'USUAL' THING HERE

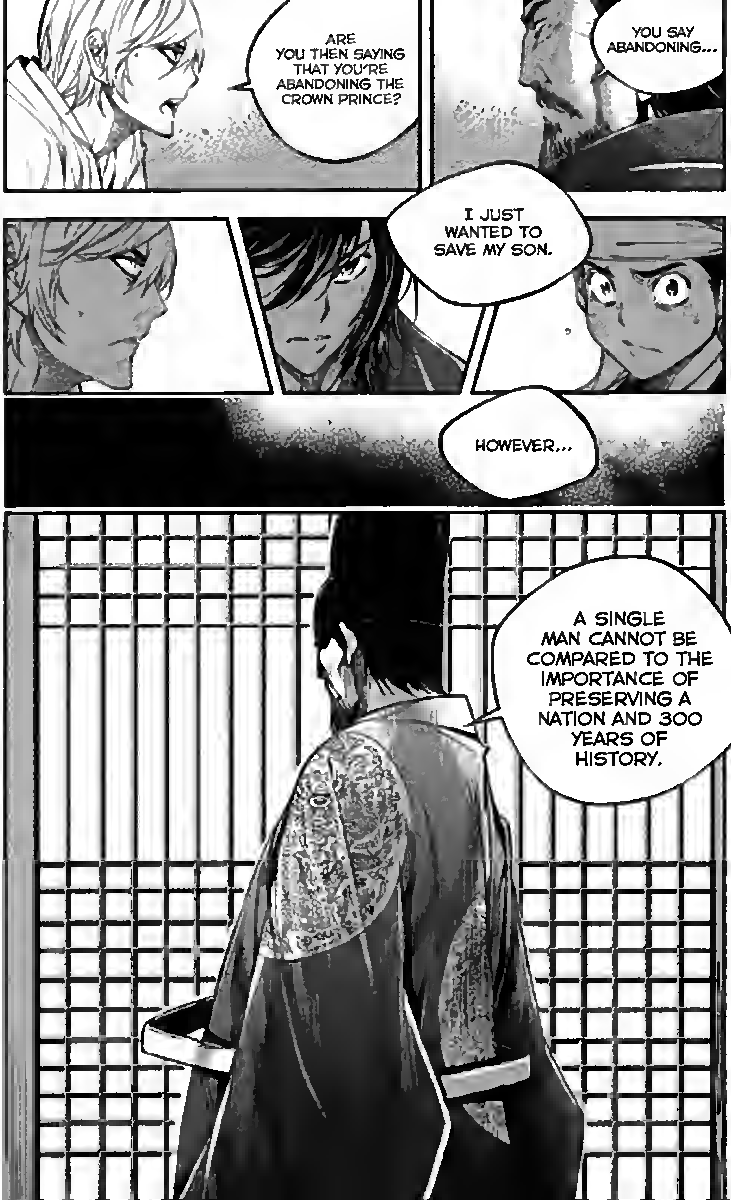
FATHER WAS ATTACKED?
I AM NOT A COMPLETE FOOL!
IT MUST BE SOMEONE FROM NORON?
WHO IS IT? TELL ME!
WHO IS IT!

IT'S GU SUN BOK.
...The commander of training?
He did this?
GRANDFATHER! ARREST GU SUN BOK IMMEDIATELY!
SHUT YOUR MOUTH.
THIS IS TREASON!
HE SHOULD NOT BE LEFT UNPUNISHED!

THE CRIMINAL IS THE CROWN PRINCE, NOT GU SUN BOK!
THAT WAS MY COMMAND!!
GRAND-FATHER...
ARREST HIM? THE ONE WHO RULES THE BARRACKS?
IF... IF YOU USE OTHER MILITARY POWERS...
SUCH AS?
IS THERE ANY ONE OF THE FIVE ROYAL ARMIES WHICH ISN'T UNDER THE CONTROL OF NORONS?

BUT YOU ARE A KING!
.....
THE HEAD OF AN ARMY IS THE KING NO MATTER WHAT!
HOW CAN THERE BE AN ARMY THAT DISOBEYS THE ORDER OF ITS KING!!
IT HAS BEEN LONG SINCE THE POWER OF THE JOSEON KING FELL BELOW THE POWER OF ITS SUBJECTS.

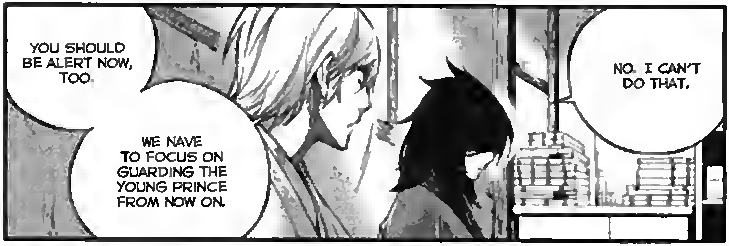
.....
IF YOU CANNOT ORDER THE ARMY, THEN ORDER ME
!
COMMAND ME TO FIND THE CROWN PRINCE, GATHER A FORCE...
AND EXTERMINATE ANYONE WHO HAVE DECEIVED THE KING THUS FAR!
THE CROWN PRINCE IS A CRIMINAL.
WHAT DO YOU THINK WILL HAPPEN IF THE NATION REALIZES THAT I, THEIR KING, ALLOWED THE CRIMINAL TO ESCAPE ALIVE?
B... BUT...
A CRIMINAL RUNS AWAY, GATHERS A FORCE AND RETURNS TO THE PALACE?
IS THAT NOT AN OUTRIGHT INSURRECTION?

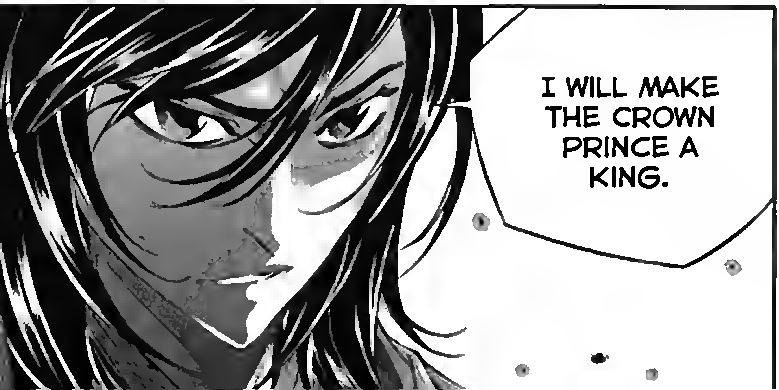

ARE YOU THEN SAYING THAT YOU'RE ABANDONING THE CROWN PRINCE?
YOU SAY ABANDONING...
I JUST WANTED TO SAVE MY SON.
HOWEVER...
A SINGLE MAN CANNOT BE COMPARED TO THE IMPORTANCE OF PRESERVING A NATION AND 300 YEARS OF HISTORY.

IF YOU WANT TO SET ANYTHING RIGHT...
IT CAN ALWAYS BE DONE AFTER THE YOUNG PRINCE HAS RISEN TO THE THRONE.
It's futile. We can't expect a solution from this man.
EI

MY PRINCE. THERE'S NO MORE USE FOR WORDS IF HIS MAJESTY'S WILL HAS ALREADY SOLIDIFIED.
PLEASE BE STRONG AND BE PATIENT UNTIL YOU RISE TO POWER.
BE PATIENT?
YOU ASK ME TO BE PATIENT, SEEING THE FACES OF THOSE WHO TRIED TO KILL MY FATHER EVERY DAY?
THAT'S NOT ALL.
SINCE THEY HAVE GOTTEN RID OF THE CROWN PRINCE, THEY WILL NOW TARGET YOU.
YOU MUST BE READY FOR THEM.

I PROMISE YOU THAT I'LL PASS THE NATIONAL EXAMINATION AND COME TO YOUR SIDE.
PLEASE WAIT TILL THEN.
I WILL SEE TO YOU RISING TO THE KINGSHIP NO MATTER WHAT.
ME?
HOW SO?
EVEN THE EUNUCHS ARE PREYING ON ME.


YOU SHOULD BE ALERT NOW, TOO.
WE HAVE TO FOCUS ON GUARDING THE YOUNG PRINCE FROM NOW ON.
NO. I CAN'T DO THAT.


I WILL MAKE THE CROWN PRINCE A KING.

COVER UP...
THAT ISN'T VERY DIFFERENT FROM MY GUESS.
WELL, IT'S OBVIOUS.
AH. WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NOW?
HM? ABOUT WHAT?
YEA.
YOU CAME HERE TO HELP DONG SOO.
YOU'RE NOT PLANNING TO CONTINUE STAYING IN THAT RUNDOWN HOUSE, ARE YOU?
DONG SOO WOULDN'T AGREE TO THAT, THOUGH
HE WILL NOT ACCEPT IT AND MAKE TROUBLE OUT OF IT.
NE WILL HAVE HIS OWN TROUBLE IF HE DOES THAT IN
I'M WORRIED ABOUT THAT, TOO.

SO WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
THAT'S MY BUSINESS.
I'LL FIGURE IT OUT ON MY OWN.
AH. IS THAT SO?
WHO'S THAT?
!
?
AH? AJJUSHI*!
*T/N: AJJUSHI TRANSLATES TO "UNCLE" OR "SIR," AND IS A WORD USED TO REFER TO A MAN USUALLY OLDER THAN ONESELF AND UNRELATED BY BLOOD.
CAN WE TALK FOR A WHILE?
?
?

IS SOMETHING WRONG?
THE NIGHT YOU GUYS WERE ARRESTED, I WENT TO RESCUE YOU
WHAT?
I WENT TO THE WALL NEAR THE STOREHOUSE YOU GUYS WERE LOCKED IN...
BUT I COULDN'T GET IN.
?

What is this,
this aura?

Fanart from Garlic Dunk, artist of "A Fairytale for the Demon Lord"